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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/62/L.29

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/62/L.29, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs" (A/C.5/62/20).

2. As indicated in that statement, under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to hold a high-level meeting on the topic "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the Assembly. Under the terms of operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the meeting a comprehensive report, with recommendations, on the subject (A/C.5/62/20, paras. 1-2).

3. The high-level meeting would be composed of four plenary meetings. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa would be in charge of the preparation of the comprehensive report, with recommendations, in cooperation with relevant development agencies of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant regional and international financial and trade institutions (A/C.5/62/20, paras. 4-5).

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4. It is evident from the statement that no additional conference-servicing resources would be required, as it is understood that the four plenary meetings would be part of the work of the General Assembly and the comprehensive report would be part of the normal documentation workload for the General Assembly. The estimated costs for the development of the comprehensive report with recommendations would amount to $86,000, which would cover consultancy services ($54,000), estimated on a basis of six work months at $9,000 a month, as well as travel ($32,000) for consultations with relevant stakeholders and for collecting necessary information (A/C.5/62/20, paras. 7-9).

5. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 in relation to the activities that would be requested under the draft resolution related to section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 11 of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified. The Secretary-General has indicated that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/62/L.29, additional requirements amounting to $86,000 would arise under section 11. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund (A/C.5/62/20, paras. 11 and 13).

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that the need for consultancy in the preparation of the comprehensive report derives from the following factors: (a) the meeting would be held at the highest level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government; and (b) the comprehensive report would contain not only assessments and evaluations of the implementation of commitments made to Africa by the international community, including contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, but also recommendations. Therefore, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa would need additional support, in particular technical expertise, to strengthen its capacity for the preparation of the comprehensive report.

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/62/L.29, additional requirements totalling $86,000 would be required under section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The Committee recommends approval of the additional requirements of $86,000 under section 11 for the biennium 2008-2009, as a charge against the contingency fund.**